



ORDERLY USING SLING

NOTES FROM THE MEDICAL PRESS

IN CHARGE OF
ELIZABETH ROBINSON SCOVIL



MOVING UNCONSCIOUS PATIENTS.—Dr. Charles S. White has invented the apparatus shown in the cut. It is illustrated in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

This is made of heavy canvas, thirty inches long and ten inches wide. Each extremity is sewed securely about an iron rod three-eighths of an inch in diameter. The iron pieces have their ends bent squarely in a rectangular form, leaving sufficient space to fasten leather straps eleven inches long, each pair of which join at a metal ring about two inches in diameter. The sling is completed by a strap riveted in one ring, a buckle in the centre, and connected with the other ring by a snaffle. The illustration shows the manner of using it. By rolling a patient first to one side, then to the other, it is placed under him, the strap thrown over the shoulder and snapped, the whole process requiring less than a minute. If the patient is unusually large, the sling can be adjusted by the strap which goes over the shoulder. One arm is slipped under the patient's neck, the other under the knees.

The chief use of this apparatus is in moving comatose cases in crowded dwellings, and this latter term includes some modern apartment houses. The advantages are: 1. The weight is properly distributed on the person carrying the load; much of it is placed on the muscles of the back, where it belongs. 2. One person can do the work usually required of two or more.

TREATMENT OF DIABETES.—The *Journal of the American Medical Association* in a synopsis of an article in the *Berliner Klinische Wochenschrift* says: "De Renzi has been treating diabetes for thirty-four years with a green vegetable diet. He thinks that this is not merely a symptomatic but a radical cure. The carbohydrates in green vegetables are well tolerated by diabetics. The power of assimilation is exaggerated in them, contrary to what is observed in tuberculosis. An amount of calories inadequate for a healthy subject amply suffices for a diabetic. His ration is five portions of green vegetables; five portions, that is, about three hundred grammes, of meat, five eggs, and a pint of wine, forming a total of two thousand one hundred and four calories. The only drug of

any use in diabetes is sodium bicarbonate. He gives it in large doses and remarks on the strange tolerance for it. It neutralizes the beta-oxybutyric acid, while it improves the general condition and the glycosuria decreases. One diabetic women took forty grammes a day, fractioned, deriving astonishing benefit from it during the two years she was under observation. When the dose was reduced the improvement declined with it. He considers electricity harmful in diabetes."

FOREIGN BODIES IN APPENDIX.—Dr. Louis J. Mitchell gives in the *Medical Record* a list of foreign substances found in the appendix in his experience. These were grape-seeds in eight cases, shot in three cases, pieces of bone in two cases, a portion of a shingle-nail, a drop of solder, a fragment of nut-shell, the bone of a small fish, and particles apparently of ash or stone. In none of the cases was there any sign of inflammation in the appendix or any symptom that it had been inflamed.

HYDROTHERAPY IN SCARLET FEVER.—*American Medicine* in an abstract of a paper in *Pediatrics* says: "R. W. Marsden believes nephritis in scarlet fever is not so wholly independent of the severity of the febrile attack as is usually supposed. His experience in hydrotherapy as a prophylactic includes a number of cases treated by the lukewarm bath, but without the use of the ice-pack or the regular administration of quinine. The baths were given every four hours for fifteen or twenty minutes at a temperature of 90° F. Of fourteen patients thus treated, nine were under five years of age; one death occurred, a child of three. This cannot be claimed a percentage mortality for the series, as only selected cases were employed. The most striking feature showing the action of the baths was the sedative influence, they often acting similar to baths in typhoid fever, the patient falling asleep directly after removal from the bath. Marsden believes that short, cold baths give the greatest benefit in case there is no danger of producing cardiac failure. In doubtful cases, in young or weakly patients, the lukewarm bath is to be preferred, though the duration of it should also be short."

OBSTETRIC REQUISITES.—Dr. Milton Mabbott publishes a list in the *New York and Philadelphia Medical Journal* which, though not new to nurses, may be useful as a reminder. The lanolin is for the prevention of sore nipples: Nail brushes, soap, green soap, lanolin, vaseline, sol. of argyrol (twelve per cent.), powdered boric acid, sodium chloride, chloroform, ergot or ergotole, antiseptic tablets (bichloride of mercury), carbolic acid, creolin, lysol, whiskey or brandy, absorbent cotton, gauze

or cheese-cloth, ice, hot and cold water, basins for—*a*, hands, *b*, antiseptic solution, *c*, bathing patient, *d*, ice, *e*, placenta, *f*, vomiting; pitchers for—*a*, hot water, *b*, cold water, *c*, forceps; sterilizer (fish kettle and gas stove), fountain syringe, douche pan, bedpan, pail or slop-jar, glass catheter, clinical thermometer, bath thermometer, glass and spoon, medicine dropper, waterproof sheeting, sheets, blankets, spread, wrapper, nightgown, underwear, leggings, including feet, bed-pads (thirty-six by thirty-six inches), towels, roller-towel or loops to pull on, napkins or vulva pads, binder, breast-binder, needles and thread, nursery or safety-pins, narrow tape (bobbin) for tying cord, scissors, receiver for baby, pieces of old linen, olive oil, baby's bath and bath sponge, scales to weigh baby, puff-box, complete set of clothes, and separate bed for baby.

ATROPINE INTOXICATION.—The *Journal of the American Medical Association*, quoting from a German contemporary, says: "A woman mistook the bottles and gave her child a teaspoonful of an atropine mixture, ordered for instillation in the eye, and instilled in the eye a few drops of an iron syrup. In two hours the symptoms of severe atropine intoxication were pronounced. Holz injected five milligrammes of morphine, evacuated the intestinal gases through a stomach tube, and stimulated intestinal peristalsis with vinegar enemas. The soothing action of the morphine was apparent at once, and after a second injection in four hours all danger was past. The antagonism between atropine and morphine and atropine is now established. They are not chemical antidotes in the chemical sense, but the morphine stimulates the nerves paralyzed by the atropine."

HOT BATHS IN NEURASTHENIA.—The *Journal of the American Medical Association*, in a synopsis of an article in the *Gazetta degli Ospedali*, Milan, says: "Alessi noticed that his neurasthenic patients were much less irritable during the summer than in the winter, and felt better generally. This fact, in connection with others which he cites, suggested the propriety of stimulating the more sluggish metabolism during the winter by means of hot baths. He has found them of the greatest value for this purpose during the cold months. The bath is taken in the morning, the temperature of the water is as warm as is most agreeable to the subject, and he remains in it for forty minutes. He finds afterwards that he is far less nervous and irritable and that he gets through the day comparatively without fatigue. Alessi ordered the baths merely to combat the symptom of irritability, and supplemented them by the ordinary measures."